

XXVI.—Key to the Palearctic Species of Larks of the Genus  
Otocorys. By V. BIANCHI, F.M.B.O.U.

I wish to submit to the readers of 'The Ibis' the following key to the Palearctic species and subspecies of the Horned Larks (*Otocorys*), of which I have lately made a careful study. I divide them into eight species and four subspecies; of the latter, three are now designated for the first time.

- a. Black chest-band divided from the black on the sides of head by a more or less broad white interspace on the sides of the neck.
- b. Throat, cheeks, and forehead sulphur-yellow in summer-, as well as in winter-dress.
- c. In the male the occiput, nape, and lesser wing-coverts of some shade of vinous red, always in contrast with the back; in the female the dark streaks of the hinder part of forehead nearly confluent. Wing, ♂ 4·6–4·15, ♀ 4·25–3·35 in.—*Hab.* Tundras and Barren-grounds of the Circumpolar region.— [*flava* (Gm.), 1788; *cornuta* (Wils.), 1888; *nivalis* (Pall.), 1811; *striatus et rufescens* (Brehm), 1855.] ..... *O. alpestris* (Linn.), 1766.
- c'. In the male the occiput and nape rich rufescent, lesser wing-coverts sandy brown, as the back, not vinous; in the female the hinder part of the forehead streaked. Wing, ♂ 4·45, ♀ 4·10 in.—*Hab.* Great Atlas Mts., Marocco .. *O. atlas* Whitaker, 1898.
- b'. Throat, cheeks, and forehead always white.
- d. No brown shaft-streaks on the back, the centre of the feathers being only slightly darker than the sides. Occiput, nape, and lesser wing-coverts exactly like the back and upper tail-coverts, all the upper surface being of a bright, more or less uniform sandy colour, with a shade of vinous in the winter-dress in the male. A broad black band on the hinder part of the forehead in the female. Wing, ♂ 3·95–3·80, ♀ 3·65 in.—*Hab.* Deserts from Arabia Petraea to Algeria .. *O. bilopha* (Temm.), 1823.
- d'. Always has brown shaft-streaks on the back, more or less hidden in the fresh plumage by the overlying feathers. In the male the occiput and nape some shade of vinous red or lilac, in strong contrast to the colour of the back; in the female black shaft-streaks on the hinder part of the forehead not forming a confluent band.

- c. A more or less broad white band on the fore part of the forehead in the male, the corresponding white or whitish feathers being without dark shaft-streaks in the female.
- f. Only the nasals black, the feathers of the adjacent foremost part of the forehead being white. (A narrow capistrum sometimes in hybrids *O. penicillata* × *O. brandti*.)
- g. Wing in the male not more than 4·70 in., usually not more than 4·55 in., in the female not more than 4·35 in.
- h. Culmen from the front end of the nostrils not more than 0·4 in. in the male, not more than 0·35 in. in the female. Darker and browner. Smaller.
- i. Bill thicker and shorter. White interspace on the sides of the neck broad. Ear-tufts of the male shorter; no traces of a capistrum. Wing, ♂ 4·50–3·95–3·92, ♀ 4·25–3·80 in.—*Hab.* Steppes of Asia from Volga River to Dauria.—[*sibirica* Swinh., 1871; *parverti* Tacz., 1876.] . . . . *O. brandti* Dresser, 1874.
- i'. Bill thinner and longer. White interspace on the sides of the neck narrower. Ear-tufts of the male longer; sometimes traces of a capistrum. Wing, ♂ 4·70–4·20, ♀ 4·30–3·80 in.—*Hab.* Mountains of the northern part of Central Asia.—[*brandti* (nec Dress.) et *elwesi* (nec Blanf.) auct. nonnull. ex parte.] *O. brandti montana*, subsp. nov.
- h. Culmen from the front end of the nostril 0·42–0·48 in.: rarely 0·40 in. in the male, 0·38–0·46 in. in the female. Lighter, sandy rufous, even whitish in the fresh dress. A large form with a comparatively short wing: in the male 4·50–4·40 in., in the female 4·35–4·10 in.—*Hab.* Zaidam. *O. brandti przewalskii*, subsp. nov.
- g'. Wing in the male not under 4·75 in. (5·20–4·80–4·75), in the female not under 4·50 in. (4·80–4·50). A very large, long-winged form.—*Hab.* Karakorum, Cashmere, and Himalayas to Kumaon.—[*perissa* et *argalea* Oberhols., 1902] . . . . . *O. longirostris* Moore, 1855.

- f.* Besides the black nasals, a black band, in typical birds large, in less typical narrower, but always distinct, forming a capistrum on the foremost part of the forehead and followed by a white band which does not reach the black nasal coverts. In the female the black capistrum is replaced by one that is brown or brownish.
- k.* Lighter, browner above; shaft-streaks on the back less developed. Wing, ♂ 4.95–4.25–4.00, ♀ 4.50–4.10–4.00 in.—*Hab.* Nanshan, Zaidam, Tibet, and Himalayas from Sikkim to Ladak.—[*nigrifrons* Przew., 1876.] . . . . . *O. elwesi* Blanf., 1872.
- k'.* Decidedly darker in all the plumages, more rufescent; shaft-streaks on the back more developed. Wing, ♂ 4.95–4.60, ♀ 4.50–4.45 in.—*Hab.* Kham, South-eastern Tibet.  
*O. elwesi khamensis*, subsp. nov.
- e'.* No white band on the front part of the forehead, all the head from the nasals to the occiput being black in the male: in the female all the feathers of the forehead with dark shaft-streaks. Wing, ♂ 4.60–4.25, ♀ 4.15–3.90 in.—*Hab.* Western Kuen-lun to Chamen-tagh . . . . *O. teleschowi* Przew., 1887.
- α'.* Black chest-band connected with the black of the sides of the head, only the margins of the feathers being white in winter-dress, or the black feathers of the sides of neck *partly* white in the hybrids *O. brandti* × *O. penicillata*, forming a very incomplete and narrow white band.
- l.* Vinous-red or lilac colour of the nape not extending over the back, which is always distinctly streaked, the shaft-streaks being more or less covered by the adjacent feathers only in the winter-dress. Wing, ♂ 4.85–4.75–4.35, ♀ 4.35–4.00 in.—*Hab.* Alps of Balkan Peninsula, Caucasus, Persia, and Turkestan. [*scriba* Bp., 1850; *albigula* Bp., 1850; *larvata* Filippi, 1863; *pallida et diluta* Sharpe, 1890; *balkanica* Reichw., 1895; *transcaspica* Flöricke, 1898; *iranica* Zarud. & Härms., 1902; *oreodroma* Oberhols., 1902.] . . . . . *O. penicillata* (Gould), 1837.
- l'.* Vinous-red or lilac colour of the occiput and nape extending over the back, which is almost uniform. Wing, ♂ 4.45–4.35, ♀ 4.15–4.05 in.—*Hab.* Syria and Palestine . . . . . *O. penicillata bicornis* Sharpe, 1884.